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Title: Need to include Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the Santhali language is spoken by more than one crore population of our country. It is one of the oldest languages. Even the languages which are spoken by less number of people than the Santhali language are recognised by the Government of India and they have been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution like Manipuri, Konkani, Nepali etc. Although Santhali language is a rich language and one of the oldest languages, still this language is not recognised and it has not been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Government of West Bengal has already recommended for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and the West Bengal Assembly also had passed a unanimous resolution for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I demand that the Government of India should bring in a legislation to amend the Constitution so that the Santhali language is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Thank you.